

01272.020411.1

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
HIROFUMI HIRANO, et al.)
Application No.: Not Yet Assigned)
Filed: Concurrently Herewith)
For: INK TANK, INK-JET)
CARTRIDGE, INK-SUPPLYING)
APPARATUS, INK-JET)
PRINTING APPARATUS AND)
METHOD FOR SUPPLYING INK) January 22, 2002

**This application is a divisional
under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of
U.S. Patent Appln. No. 09/580,410**

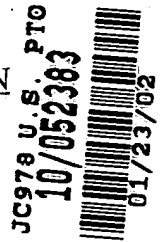
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's
attention to the documents listed below and on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

U.S. Patent 4,967, 207
U.S. Patent 4,968,998
U.S. Patent 5,126,767
U.S. Patent 5,812,168
Europe 803,362
Europe 803,364
Europe 854,046
WO 97/42035
WO 98/40217
Japan 10-250105
Japan 11-58763
Japan 60-32671



Japan 2-77443

These documents were cited during prosecution of parent application 09/580,410 from which priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is claimed and copies of these documents were provided to the Patent Office in the parent application. Therefore, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of these documents are not included with this Information Disclosure Statement.

Inasmuch as this application has not yet received a first Office Action on the merits, it is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is timely. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1). Accordingly, the Examiner is urged to study this information in its entirety and to form an independent determination of the materiality of the information to the claimed invention. Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that this information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portion of Form PTO-1449.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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